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The work on transcendental curves and equations in rectangular coordinates is more extensive than in the old book and has been made into a separate chapter. It includes the graphical solution of transcendental equations, and some tables to lighten the work of computation. The authors say truly in the preface that a student loses interest in a function if he cannot calculate rapidly its numerical values. It is for this reason that they have put in the first chapter tables of squares and cubes, square and cube roots, and three-place tables of logarithms and trigonometric functions.

The book is considerably larger than the *Introduction to Analytic Geometry* by the same authors.

W. H. BUSSEY.

Mathematical Recreations and Essays. Fifth Edition. By W. W. ROUSE BALL. Macmillan and Co., London, 1911. xvi+492 pages.

A great deal of new matter has been added to this interesting book since it was first published in 1892. The fifth edition contains almost 250 pages more than the first and about 100 pages more than the fourth. The work on "Kirkman's School-Girls Problem" has been enlarged and made into a separate chapter. There is a paragraph on the same problem as proposed independently by J. Steiner in a somewhat more general form. There is a new chapter of 20 pages on "The Parallel Postulate," and one of 6 pages on the "Insolubility of the Algebraic Quintic." Those who amused themselves in their youth by making figures known as *Cat's Cradles* by twisting on the hands a loop of string will be interested in the new chapter on "String Figures." The subject is more extensive than most people think. The chapter is 32 pages long and is not supposed to be a complete discussion. It is only indirectly connected with mathematics. The author explains the presence of it and the older chapters on "Astrology" and "Ciphers" by saying that he deliberately gave the book a title which would allow him a free hand to write what he liked.

The parts of the book which are not new have been revised. In the chapter on mechanical recreations, after a discussion of the cut on a tennis ball and the spin on a cricket ball, the author has put in a paragraph on the flight of golf balls. In the chapter on matter and ether theories, he has added a page on the principle of relativity. These are typical instances of the way in which the book has been brought up to date.

W. H. BUSSEY.

An Elementary Treatise on Cross-Ratio Geometry, with Historical Notes. By Rev. JOHN J. MILNE. Cambridge University Press, 1911. xxiii+288 pp.

It is well known that our literature on secondary mathematics is too limited. The ambitious teacher of secondary mathematics, who reads English only, does not possess as good facilities for broadening his knowledge as do his German and French colleagues. Recently there has been considerable improvement along this line, and the volume before us is another step in the right direction.